- For the establishment of an Afghan Academy of Cinema, India would extend support by providing long term and short term training in Indian academies to Afghan nationals in scriptwriting, direction, cinematography, editing and sound recording.
- The two countries would also make efforts to hold special screening of each other's films in their respective countries.

Uplinking FDI in News Channel

4100. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether television news channels with Foreign Institutional Investment can continue uplinking from India for another three months;

(b) if so, whether as per the uplinking guidelines only 26 per cent FDI is allowed in news channel;

(c) if so, the channels which would be benefited under three months extension;

(d) whether Government would take a call on whether to allow 3 FIIs separately;

(e) whether the industry expects Government to relax the guidelines and allow FIIs in the news channel; and

(f) if so, by when Government would finalise the decision?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) The Government has extended the deadline upto 30th September, 2005 for the existing News and Current Affairs TV channels to comply with the eligibility criteria for uplinking of News and Current Affairs TV Channels from India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following companies are required to comply with the eligibility criteria within the extended period *i.e.* upto 30th September, 2005;

(1) Jeevan Telecasting Corporation Ltd.
(2) Jain Studios Ltd.
(3) Zee Telefilms Ltd.

4) Sri Adhikari Brothers Television Network Ltd.

5) Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.

6) Sky (B) Bangla Pvt. Ltd.

7) Television Eighteen India Ltd.

(d) to (f) The matter is currently under examination.

Conference of Ministers

4101. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the decisions arrived at the Conference of the Information and Broadcasting Ministers of the States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): During the 25th Conference of State & Union Territory Ministers of Information & Cinematography (SIMCON) held on 16th April, 2005 at New Delhi consensus emerged for—

(i) more effective implementation of anti-piracy laws by officials of State Government and local authorities

(ii) licensing or registration of Video Libraries by State Government

(iii) to organize sensitization and training of State Government Officers by the Government of India for monitoring cable operators

(iv) to work towards further reduction of Entertainment Tax to bring it in the range of 25-30% to revive cinema industry

(v) to designate District and Public Information Officers (DIPR's) to collect annual statement in respect of the Newspapers and pass it on to Registrar of newspapers for India.

(vi) State Governments agreed to provide land and other logistic need like power, etc. to Prasar Bharati.

(vii) State Governments also agreed to provide DTH Set Top Boxes in the border areas, hilly areas and also for weaker sections. It was recommended that Government of India and States together workout a scheme to provide Set Top Boxes to schools, anganwadis, etc.